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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.:

09/842,466

Confirmation No.: 8005

Applicant(s):

Kokubo et al.

Filed:

April 26, 2001

Art Unit:

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Examiner:

Sheikh, Humera N

Title:

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Docket No.:

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RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT (37 CFR 1.121)

Sir:

This is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 9, 2004. Please accept the following Amendments to the Claims and Remarks/Arguments in place of those submitted in the Preliminary Amendment of March 25, 2004. The previous Amendment did not account for claims 21-30, which had been withdrawn due to a previous restriction requirement. This Response corrects the previous deficiency by correctly renumbering the claims.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.